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CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS: 30TH JUNE, 1940.

The Acting Commonwealth Statistician has made available the following particulars obtained from the Census of Australian Aborigines which was taken in all States of the Commonwealth on the 30th June, 1940.

With the assistance of the State Statisticians, the Protectors of Aborigines and the Police an annual Census of the aboriginal population of Australia has been taken since the year 1924. Certain particulars had been ascertained before that date in some States, but an annual Census had not been attempted.

In previous reports, reference has been made to the difficulties of collection, in consequence of which the figures published in the following tables should not be taken as more than reliable estimates.

FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINALS.

The full-blood aboriginal population of Australia at 30th June, 1940, was 47,960 persons of whom 26,835 or 56.0 per cent. were males and 21,125 or 44.0 per cent. were females. Adults numbered 38,096 and children 9,864.

The recorded numbers of the full-blood aborigines remained fairly steady between 1921 and 1933 but in 1934 a complete check of most of the outlying districts of Western Australia and Northern Territory was responsible for a substantial revision of the figures for these areas and the total for Australia was reduced from 60,101 persons in 1933 to 54,848 in 1934. From 1934 to 1938 the numbers declined during each year, but there was a small increase in 1939. The apparent large decrease in 1940 is due to the exclusion of Torres Strait Islanders. Prior to 30th June, 1940, these Islanders were included as aborigines, but, owing to the provisions of the Queensland "Torres Strait Islanders Act of 1939", they are now placed in a different category and under separate administration in that State. The number of Torres Strait Islanders recorded in Queensland at the census of 30th June, 1940, was 3,727 (1,903 males and 1,824 females) all of whom are classed as full-blood under the Act.

In 1921 the aboriginal population consisted of 82.3 per cent. full-bloods and 17.7 per cent. half castes. Since that year, owing to the steady decrease in the number of full-bloods and the rapid increase in the number of half castes, the proportion of full-bloods has fallen to 65.5 per cent. whilst that of the half-caste population has risen to 34.5 per cent.

At the 30th June, 1940, there were 9,998 full-blood aborigines in regular employment compared with 11,343 in 1939 and 10,925 in 1928. The figures for the two earlier years however, include Torres Strait Islanders, 853 of whom were in regular employment at 30th June, 1940. The principal industries in order of importance in which males are engaged are:- grazing, fishing, farming, domestic service, pearling, road construction and black tracking. The females are mainly engaged in domestic service.

HALF-CASTE ABORIGINALS.

The half-caste population of Australia at the 30th June, 1940, numbered 25,311 persons (13,216 or 52.2 per cent. males and 12,095 or 47.8 per cent. females) a decrease of 401 for the year. This decrease is due to the exclusion of Torres Strait Islanders in Queensland, the reasons for which are mentioned above.

The number of half-caste aborigines as recorded in each State was as follows:- New South Wales, 10,171 or 40.2 per cent., Queensland, 6,164 or 24.4 per cent., Western Australia, 4,781 or 18.9 per cent., South Australia, 2,250 or 8.9 per cent., Northern Territory, 902 or 3.6 per cent., Victoria, 673 or 2.6 per cent., Tasmania 282 or 1.1 per cent. and Australian Capital Territory, 88 or 0.3 per cent.

Since 1901, the half-caste aborigines have more than trebled in number, having increased from 7,370 persons in that year to 25,311 at 30th June, 1940. The rate of growth has been consistently maintained, there being 10,113 in 1911, 12,630 in 1921 and 19,014 in 1931. Since 1901 the half-caste aborigines have been increasing at a consistently higher average annual rate than the white population.

Half-castes recorded herein include persons of mixed white and aboriginal blood living with aborigines and other persons in whom the strains are approximately equal.

CENSUS OF ABORIGINES-30TH JUNE, 1940.
AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL AND HALF-CASTE ABORIGINAL POPULATION.
1921 TO 1940

30th June	Full-blood				Half-caste (a)				Total Aboriginal Population
	Adults	Children	Total	Percentage on Total Aboriginal Population	Adults	Children	Total	Percentage on Total Aboriginal Population	
1921	46,723	12,048	58,771	82.31	7,931	4,699	12,630	17.69	71,401
1928	48,044	12,619	60,663	78.29	9,763	7,055	16,818	21.71	77,481
1929	49,078	12,723	61,801	78.80	9,450	7,179	16,629	21.20	78,430
1930	49,167	12,567	61,734	77.62	10,213	7,584	17,797	22.38	79,531
1931	46,676	12,225	58,901	75.60	10,923	8,091	19,014	24.40	77,915
1932	47,345	12,374	59,719	75.68	10,891	8,305	19,196	24.32	78,915
1933	47,321	12,780	60,101	75.53	10,999	8,468	19,467	24.47	79,568
1934	42,955	11,893	54,848	71.93	12,040	9,359	21,399	28.07	76,247
1935	42,492	11,886	54,378	70.44	12,800	10,017	22,817	29.56	77,195
1936	41,950	11,748	53,698	69.59	13,137	10,324	23,461	30.41	77,159
1937	41,306	11,529	52,835	68.81	13,596	10,354	23,950	31.19	76,785
1938	40,487	10,892	51,379	67.52	13,988	10,730	24,718	32.48	76,097
1939	40,482	11,075	51,557	66.72	14,275	11,437	25,712	33.28	77,269
1940(b)	38,096	9,864	47,960	65.46	13,802	11,509	25,311	34.54	73,271

(a) Includes persons of mixed white and aboriginal blood living with aboriginals and other persons in whom the strains are approximately equal.

(b) Exclusive of Torres Strait Islanders in Queensland.

CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1940

FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINALS

State or Territory	Adults					Children				Total Full-blood Aboriginals
	Nomadic	In Regular Employment	In Supervised Camps(a)	Other	Total Adults	Nomadic	In Supervised Camps	Other	Total Children	
MALES										
New South Wales	7	75	184	54	320	8	58	30	96	416
Victoria	-	19	-	10	29	-	9	9	18	47
Queensland	699	2,386	797	174	4,056	91	627	232	950	5,006
South Australia	582	278	141	93	1,094	255	40	50	345	1,439
Western Australia	6,762	2,387	601	323	10,073	1,388	382	309	2,079	12,152
Tasmania	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Territory	2,616	1,930	1,255	428	6,229	716	732	97	1,545	7,774
Total Males:	10,667	7,075	2,978	1,082	21,802	2,458	1,848	727	5,033	26,835
FEMALES										
New South Wales	9	23	110	34	176	10	58	30	98	274
Victoria	-	-	8	9	17	-	3	10	13	30
Queensland	589	675	1,227	265	2,756	107	679	218	1,004	3,760
South Australia	585	129	118	78	910	253	52	50	355	1,265
Western Australia	5,660	1,208	560	322	7,750	1,356	341	222	1,919	9,669
Tasmania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Territory	2,063	888	1,390	344	4,685	640	693	109	1,442	6,127
Total Females:	8,906	2,923	3,413	1,052	16,294	2,366	1,826	639	4,831	21,125
PERSONS										
New South Wales	16	98	294	88	496	18	116	60	194	690
Victoria	-	19	8	19	46	-	12	19	31	77
Queensland	1,288	3,061	2,024	439	6,812	198	1,306	450	1,954	8,766
South Australia	1,167	407	259	171	2,004	508	92	100	700	2,704
Western Australia	12,422	3,595	1,161	645	17,823	2,744	723	531	3,998	21,821
Tasmania	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Territory	4,679	2,818	2,645	772	10,914	1,356	1,425	206	2,987	13,901
Total Persons:	19,573	9,998	6,391	2,134	38,096	4,824	3,674	1,366	9,864	47,960
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS										
MALES										
Queensland	-	751	487	3	1,241	-	662	-	662	1,903
FEMALES										
Queensland	-	102	1,023	7	1,132	-	692	-	692	1,824
PERSONS										
Queensland	-	853	1,510	10	2,373	-	1,354	-	1,354	3,727

(a) Excludes those living in Supervised Camps who were in regular employment.

Note: The figures for Western Australia include 10,000 full-blood aboriginals estimated to live outside the influence of Europeans. These have been distributed as follows: 4,000 male adults, 4,000 female adults, 1,000 male children and 1,000 female children.

CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1940.

HALF-CASTE ABORIGINALS(b)

State or Territory	Adults					Children				Total
	Nomadic	In Regular Employment	In Supervised Camps(a)	Other	Total Adults	Nomadic	In Supervised Camps	Other	Total Children	Half-caste Aboriginals
<u>MALES</u>										
New South Wales ..	75	1,145	1,246	565	3,031	81	1,289	956	2,326	5,357
Victoria ..	5	148	2	46	201	-	74	67	141	342
Queensland ..	17	1,199	151	343	1,710	27	626	778	1,431	3,141
South Australia ..	260	342	120	31	753	180	196	64	440	1,193
Western Australia ..	212	668	269	171	1,320	141	572	474	1,187	2,507
Tasmania ..	-	5	70	16	91	-	49	11	60	151
Australian Capital Territory ..	-	35	-	-	35	-	17	-	17	52
Northern Territory ..	2	244	12	3	261	4	157	51	212	473
<u>Total Males:</u>	571	3,786	1,870	1,175	7,402	433	2,980	2,401	5,814	13,216
<u>FEMALES</u>										
New South Wales ..	41	531	1,251	777	2,600	77	1,251	886	2,214	4,814
Victoria ..	2	53	46	67	168	-	87	76	163	331
Queensland ..	24	506	520	545	1,595	32	653	743	1,428	3,023
South Australia ..	211	63	233	63	570	175	243	69	487	1,057
Western Australia ..	174	431	337	207	1,149	122	558	445	1,125	2,274
Tasmania ..	-	4	53	22	79	-	40	12	52	131
Australian Capital Territory ..	-	21	-	-	21	-	15	-	15	36
Northern Territory ..	-	151	27	40	218	-	150	61	211	429
<u>Total Females:</u>	452	1,760	2,467	1,721	6,400	406	2,997	2,292	5,695	12,095
<u>PERSONS</u>										
New South Wales ..	116	1,676	2,497	1,342	5,631	158	2,540	1,842	4,540	10,171
Victoria ..	7	201	48	113	369	-	161	143	304	673
Queensland ..	41	1,705	671	888	3,305	59	1,279	1,521	2,859	6,164
South Australia ..	471	405	353	94	1,323	355	439	133	927	2,250
Western Australia ..	386	1,099	606	378	2,469	263	1,130	919	2,312	4,781
Tasmania ..	-	9	123	38	170	-	89	23	112	282
Australian Capital Territory ..	-	56	-	-	56	-	32	-	32	88
Northern Territory ..	2	395	39	43	479	4	307	112	423	902
<u>Total Persons:</u>	1,023	5,546	4,337	2,896	13,802	839	5,977	4,693	11,509	25,311

(a) Excludes those living in Supervised Camps who were in regular employment.

(b) Exclusive of Torres Strait Islanders in Queensland.

Note: Half-castes recorded above include persons of mixed white and aboriginal blood living with aboriginals and other persons in whom the strains are approximately equal.